

Submission
No 66

**INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND
PRISON-RELATED SERVICES**

Name: Mr Lee McCarthy

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To Whom It May Concern:

I write this submission in the hope that sanity will prevail at the intending privatisation of NSW Corrections, Transportation and Cell complex's. It is a well documented fact that Prison Officers have an extremely difficult and dangerous job to do. It takes a very special person to want to be part of a process that Society has put in place to keep antisocial, dangerous people away from normal humans.

For the life of me I can not understand why under the guise of cost saving/cutting any one would consider placing private security guards to supervise prisoners. They are not suitably trained, they have not had the extensive Psychometric evaluations that Prison Officers have had, they are open to intimidation, serious breaches of security and corruption issues.

I have seen the result of Privatisation in the UK, Scotland and Ireland and it is a public embarrassment with strong public condemnation of the system. Do not be drawn into this situation thinking people forget and "it will all blow over". I live in the Albury area of NSW and to think that closing the Cell Complex will save money is an insult to my community. There is a shortage of NSW Police as it is in this area and to think that at least a minimum of 6 Police will have to be taken off the street to cover the Cell Complex on weekends is disgraceful.

I would strongly suggest that this decision is a bad one and should not go ahead. If this situation develops and private security guards are placed into these positions I like many other of my family, close friends and associates, all who know more than 10 people who also know more than 10 people who again know more than 10 people will most certainly exercise our power to vote at the next election in retaliation to our safety being put at risk. As a previous serving member of 12 years in the NSW Corrective Services in Maximum and Minimum Security Prisons, Prisoner Transportation, Special Response Units and Court Complex in NSW I have more than enough experience/knowledge to know what the consequences will be.

Respectfully

Lee McCARTHY